

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An isolated thermostable *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit of a DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, the isolated delta or delta prime or tau subunit:

(i) ~~comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 178 or 180 or 182; or~~  
(ii) ~~being encoded by a nucleic acid molecule hybridizing to the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 177 or 179 or 181 under hybridization conditions that are at least as stringent as use of a medium comprising at most about 0.9M sodium citrate buffer at a temperature of at least about 37°C.~~

2. (original) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the *Bacillus* species is *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

3. (canceled)

4. (withdrawn) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the delta prime subunit comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 180.

5. (withdrawn) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the tau subunit comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 182.

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the subunit is purified.

8. (original) A clamp loader complex comprising at least one of the *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunits according to claim 1.

9. (original) A clamp loader complex comprising the *Bacillus* delta, delta prime, and tau subunits according to claim 1.

10. (original) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 8.

11. (original) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 9.
12. (original) A kit comprising:
  - a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and
  - a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 10.
13. (original) A kit comprising:
  - a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and
  - a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 11.
14. (new) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the hybridization conditions comprise a medium comprising 5X sodium citrate buffer and at a temperature of 65°C, followed by washing in 5X sodium citrate buffer at 65°C.
15. (new) The isolated *Bacillus* delta or delta prime or tau subunit according to claim 1 wherein the delta subunit encoded by the DNA molecule is at least 95 percent identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 178
16. (new) The isolated DNA molecule according to claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule is at least 95 percent identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 177.
17. (new) An isolated delta subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 178.
18. (new) A clamp loader complex comprising the delta subunit according to claim 17.
19. (new) The clamp loader complex according to claim 18, wherein the complex further comprises a delta prime subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 180 and a tau subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 182.

20. (new) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 18.

21. (new) A kit comprising:  
a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and  
a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 20.